

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/08/16 : CIA-RDP79T00865A001000210001-8

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2005/08/16 : CIA-RDP79T00865A001000210001-8



CONTENTS



Portuguese Military Calls for Unity 7

May 23, 1975

25X1D

Approved For Release 2005/08/16 : CIA-RDP79T00865A001000210001-8

Next 5 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2005/08/16 : CIA-RDP79T00865A001000210001-8

Phone:

25X1A
25X1A

Portuguese Military Calls for Unity

The ruling Revolutionary Council, apparently concerned about the deteriorating political situation, early today called for national unity and said it would never permit a dictatorship to be set up. The Council appealed to all political parties to cooperate in view of the country's worsening economic situation.

The Council's pronouncement followed a day of tense political activities:

- Socialist leader Mario Soares in a press conference strongly criticized the Communist Party and the Armed Forces Movement and said his party would boycott government meetings until the Socialists' newspaper was returned and until press freedom and union and municipal elections are allowed.
- Socialist rallies in several major cities turned out tens of thousands of Socialists in support of Soares.
- A statement by the Communists accused the Socialists of threatening the Portuguese system with their boycott and warned them that they would be responsible for the outcome of their actions. The Communists also said that the people would never allow a democratic regime to be put in jeopardy.

Whether the Council continues to be conciliatory remains to be seen. The Armed Forces Movement yesterday may have taken the first step toward removing President Costa Gomes, because of his sympathies for the Socialists. The military retirement age was lowered to 60; Costa Gomes will turn 61 next month.

May 23, 1975

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/08/16 : CIA-RDP79T00865A001000210001-8

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Approved For Release 2005/08/16 : CIA-RDP79T00865A001000210001-8